

**FERC RELICENSING OF THE OROVILLE FACILITY  
CULTURAL RESOURCES WORK GROUP  
FEBRUARY 2002 UPDATE**

The last Cultural Resources Work Group (CRWG) meeting was held at Mooretown Rancheria on January 29, 2002. At that meeting it was agreed that a summary of activities conducted throughout February would be distributed to the CRWG in lieu of holding a regular monthly meeting. This document provides that summary and fulfills the obligations of Action Item #C37, as identified in the meeting notes posted for the January CRWG meeting.

**Study Plan C-1 Update**

During the month of February, the Cultural Resources consultants developed draft annotated outlines for the forthcoming research designs and scopes of work that will provide the details for implementing Study Plan C-1 (Inventory). Mark Basgall and Michael Delacorte (California State University, Sacramento) developed and completed the outline for the archaeological studies element of the study plan, with assistance from Kathleen McBride and Mark Selverston (Sonoma State University).

Helen McCarthy (Far Western Anthropological Research Group) is developing a draft annotated outline for the ethnographic studies portion of the Study Plan C-1.

Study Plan C-1 had originally been submitted to the Plenary Group at their monthly meeting on January 28, 2002. At that time, the Plenary Group passed the study plan on for formal approval at their February meeting without comment.

The Plenary Group held their most recent meeting on February 25, 2002. During the process of formally approving Study Plan C-1 for implementation, Nan Nalder (State Water Contractors) expressed a "heartburn" issue about the study plan. Specifically, she stated that the State Water Contractors were concerned about the need to do a 100% survey of the fluctuation zone. Some discussion ensued as Janis Offermann (DWR) explained the overall survey strategy for the property within the FERC boundary and that FERC guidelines require that the entire fluctuation zone be inventoried. It was decided that a conference call would be held between Frank Winchell (FERC archaeologist), Janis Offermann (DWR Cultural Resources Resource Area Manager) and Nan Nalder and Craig Jones (State Water Contractors) to clarify this issue.

A conference call took place on the following morning of February 26, 2002. Those participating included Frank Winchell, Janis Offermann, Craig Jones and Anna West (Kearns and West). Nan Nalder's teleconference connection did not work and she was debriefed by Craig Jones and Janis Offermann after the conclusion of the call. At the onset of the call, Craig Jones reiterated the concern for the need to survey 100% of the fluctuation zone. Janis Offermann then described that this meant taking into account the entire area within the fluctuation zone and subjecting that entire area to some level of inventory; this is in contrast to the acreage above the high water mark in which only 30% of the area will be taken into account by stratified random sample. Within the fluctuation zone there may be areas that are physically impossible to traverse on foot due to steepness of slope, etc. These areas would be examined in a more cursory fashion,

perhaps by binoculars from a boat in the reservoir, or helicopter. It was also noted that 100% of all areas involved in recreation or management activities would be examined.

Frank Winchell agreed with and supported Janis' description of the survey strategy. He noted that this is standard practice for all FERC projects and that it is no more and no less than what is expected. Craig Jones was satisfied with the definition of 100% survey within the fluctuation zone and agreed that Study Plan C-1 could be formally approved for implementation. Following the debriefing of the teleconference call, Nan Nalder also approved C-1 for implementation.

### **Study Plans C-2, C-3, C-4 Update**

Study Plans C-2, C-3 and C-4 were also brought up to the Plenary Group for formal approval at the February 25, 2002 meeting. These study plans were approved, pending that the heartburn issue for C-1 could be resolved. Since the heartburn issue for C-1 was resolved, it is assumed that these three study plans will also be formally approved.

### **Training for Native American Participants Update**

Plans for training local Native American community members to assist with the cultural resources inventory are moving forward and dates have been set for initiating the training. The first introduction to training will be held on Saturday, March 23, 2002 at the Oroville Cultural Resources Project office located at 2128 Myers in Oroville. This day will be devoted to providing overviews and descriptions of the kinds of work available for interested parties. Those interested in taking part in one or more aspects of the inventory will apply for available positions through the Tribal Legacy Coordinators. Successful candidates will take part in more intensive training the week of April 8, 2002 in the anticipation of beginning fieldwork the week of April 15, 2002.

### **Maidu Advisory Council Update**

During the month of February, the Maidu Advisory Council met on Thursday, February 21, 2002 at the Oroville Cultural Resources Project office in Oroville. The Council reported on their trip to California State University, Sacramento Archaeological Research Center on February 1 and 2, 2002. The purpose of the trip was to give Council members a first-hand view of how archaeological materials are treated in a laboratory setting and expose them to what kinds of information can be extracted from the artifacts. The Council reported that the experience was very informative and enjoyable.

The draft Stabilization Report was to be distributed to the Council at this meeting, but the distribution was delayed at the request of DWR management. This led to a discussion by the Council about how they thought that they should be able to review consultant-prepared draft reports prior to DWR editing of the documents.

The bulk of the meeting was spent going over an annotated outline for the Study Plan C-1 archaeological inventory. The outline was prepared and presented to the Council by Mark Basgall and Michael Delacorte of California State University, Sacramento. Topics of discussion brought about by going over the outline included the request to increase survey transect intervals from the 15 meter distance described in the original Fluctuation

Zone plan, to a more standard distance of 25 meters for all areas subject to pedestrian survey. This increase was agreed to by the Council.

A second major topic of discussion brought about by the outline was the collection of surface materials from archaeological sites primarily for determining the age of the sites. There was considerable discussion about how much might be collected from a site and a number of different opinions were offered. A concern was also expressed about the disposition of the materials after the FERC project was completed. The concept of collecting some surface materials from archaeological sites was, ultimately, agreed to by the Council.

The next meeting of the Council was scheduled for Monday, March 4, 2002. Rick Ramirez, DWR Program Manager for the FERC Relicensing, will attend the meeting to answer questions from the Council regarding the relicensing effort.

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